



A SOLUTION BY



275 East Cottage Street Dorchester, MA 02125 (Primary Mailing)
222 Bowdoin Street Dorchester, MA 02125 (Legal Business)
tel: 617.944.1083 fax: 617.410.9975 uncornered.org

September 12, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chairman
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
US Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Office #224
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing to express the support of College Bound Dorchester (CBD) for Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins as the nominee for the position of United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

We have had the privilege of working with DA Rollins since she first took office two years ago. In that time, she has proven herself to be a dedicated and fair public servant who has always kept the best interest of those she serves foremost in her mind. In her role she has found ways to both support the victims of crimes and also pushed for new ways to truly find justice in our judicial system.

College Bound Dorchester is a more than 50-year-old nonprofit whose vision is for education to transform communities. We accomplish this by investing and supporting those that many have cast aside. Our signature Uncornered program works with former and active gang-involved young people to move them from a place of violence and destruction to one of opportunity and peace. We do this by supporting young men and women to move from the corner to college and become active role models in their communities. In the past five years we have had great success with fewer than 10% of our participants recidivating, more than 70% matriculating to college and, most significantly for our community seeing crime rates drop by threefold in neighborhoods and streets where CBD mentors are most active.

None of this would be possible without champions like DA Rollins who knows that true opportunity in our communities only comes when there is no crime and who works toward that every day. In her role as DA, Rachael Rollins has shown our community and our young people that you can both punish behavior and yet offer chances to individuals. Our young people have almost universally been involved in the justice system that DA Rollins runs. In fact, our average student age is 22 years old and they have been arrested more than 10 times on average (10.4) in their young lives. These young people are repeat offenders who cost the Commonwealth millions, inflict considerable pain and are also most likely to be injured or die from gang violence. In this equation, we need to act differently to get different outcomes. DA Rollins has done just that. She has both been strong and clear with those that break the law, but also allowed organizations like ours to find ways to redirect and support young people who are caught in cycles of violence.

Ms. Rollins is one of those rare individuals who both knows and understands the existing system and the strengths therein who has the courage to look for new approaches to help the community. In her role as DA one of the first things she did was to hire Dan Mulhern who had been an ADA for years and was running the City of Boston's anti-violence work. Mr. Mulhern knew the lawyers, police and community leaders in the city. This move, to bring an "old hand" in as her second in command, shows her confidence and understanding. She also directed her prosecutors to think differently about how to get to justice. For us at times this meant that young people were directed to us to get their GED (HiSET) and go to community college and recruit their former gang members to more positive lives.

DA Rollins has shown herself to be both a brilliant prosecutor and a steady-handed leader in these trying times and it is without question that she will make an outstanding United States Attorney.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

Mark Culliton
Co-Founder and CEO

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Michelle Caldeira
Co-Founder and SVP

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